

**Monday March 19<sup>h</sup> 2018**

**Jury Duty Week 2**

We were up at 05:40 hrs, after a restless night.

Weather: Toronto 22F to 32F with sun    Louisville 41F to 60F cloud.

David took three minutes and 3 seconds on the NYTX.

BBC: In the first year, the Trump Administration had a 34% turnover compared to 9% in the Obama Administration.

We walked Maisie for the Dawn Patrol. There were rosy-pink fingers in the eastern dawn sky. We got a photo. When we got back disaster had struck - David was out of Tetley Tea.

Knowing he faced jury duty starting May 14<sup>th</sup> in Toronto, David started researching cell phones. He particularly hates cell phones as he thinks the Canadian market is a total rip-off – it is oligopolistic, dominated by a small number of large sellers. He checked US retailers and there is a much better selection until you look for UNLOCKED phones. The price of the hardware rises dramatically, indicating that the carriers subsidize hardware to lure the user onto their platform. It seems that the Canadian 7-Eleven has the best plan for Canada and David's very limited need. If we purchase the Nissan Leaf, we will need an Android phone to monitor the Leaf Spy application.

Louise drove off for jury duty about 10:00 hrs for a 11:00 start. David drove off to do some grocery shopping at Kroger's. The horse radish almost defeated him. He finally remembered that it was refrigerated and filed under cheese rather than pickles or condiments.

BBC: The UK and EU have agreed on a "large part" of the agreement that will lead to the "orderly withdrawal" of the UK. The transitional period is set to last from 29 March, 2019 to December 2020, and is intended to smooth the path to a future permanent relationship.

CBC: The federal, Ontario and Quebec governments say they will spend \$200 million to help fund research into 5G wireless technology, the next-generation networks with download speeds 100 times faster than current ones can handle.

Louise phoned about noon to say that one juror had not reported at 11:00 hrs. He had telephoned the judge's secretary who gave him the incorrect start time of 13:00 hrs. The judge sent everybody else on lunch break.

David tried applying waxy 'Armor All Protectorant' to one fender of the Jeep to see if there would be any improvement. None. The folks at Cross Jeep probably already did that to make the Jeep look as good as new.

For lunch David had a slice of Dave's Killer Bread spread with crunchy peanut butter.

Then he got onto the Jeep Wrangler user forum and tried to find out how to get the rear-view-blocking

headrests off the rear seat of the 2 door Jeep Wrangler. In the Wrangler Forum guys went to extraordinary methods that involved major modifications. Thinking that there had to be an easier way, David got onto YouTube Video. He found the answer in a video supplied by an after-market seat cover vendor.

As soon as he saw it he realized it was the same as his Chrysler van – except the Jeep headrests were jammed down so hard you could not see the release mechanisms. Remember it is now Jeep *Chrysler* and some accountant had asked why different headrest assemblies were being used where a universal Chrysler would work.

David had to use some tank skills to “persuade” the headrests to come up enough for him to insert two tools to wedge open the two releases simultaneously that anybody with the strength of Hercules in their fingers can do with ease.

Louise phoned home about 15:50 during the afternoon break. She was desperate for coffee as she could hardly keep her eyes open.

After trying to earn his Boy Scout badge for domestic engineering, ironing shirts and blouses, David went back to reading about Churchill, after the French capitulation and before Hitler's invasion of Russia.

He took a break to start sharpening about eight steak knives. It is a rather monotonous and unrewarding task. After several minutes of work, one is not sure that the knife is getting any sharper. After about 30 minutes labor David quit when he proved the sharpness of a knife by cutting his thumb.

Louise phones about 17:40 to say that the judge had ordered a second afternoon break. They would go into session at 17:55 to hear a deposition.

David decided to have a quick look at “The Soul of Battle” by Victor David Hanson. Louise had purchased this book knowing Hanson's reputation in the Classics. David started with Hanson's second choice General William Tecumseh Sherman and his great 1864 march from Atlanta to Savannah - right through Georgia – striking cross country not tied to railroads. Sherman's bold move of operating deep within enemy territory and without supply lines is considered to be one of the major achievements of the war. His aim was to punish the Southern Aristocracy.

He and the Union Army's commander, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, believed that the Civil War would come to an end only if the Confederacy's strategic, economic, and psychological capacity for warfare were decisively broken.

By moving in Confederate General Robert E. Lee's rear and performing a massive turning movement against him, Sherman could possibly increase pressure on Lee, allowing Grant the opportunity to break through, or at least keep Southern reinforcements away from Virginia.

It was pouring down rain when Louise drove home after a grueling day in court. As soon as Louise phoned on departure at 19:05 David started heating the oven to get dinner ready. Louise did not get home until 19:45 and she was as mad as a wet hen.

Dinner was at 20:00 after a good slug of jury juice. It was so late that we opted to watch the simplistic Western about Amish trying to leave the commune to make it in the real world. The juror flaked out.

### **Tuesday March 20th 2018**

The alarm failed to go off at 06:00 so we were late getting up. As a result we did not walk Maisie and had an emergency breakfast of oatmeal.

Weather: Toronto 23F to 26F sun Louisville 37F to 40F cloud 7 rain

David limped the NYTX at three minutes 35 seconds.

Louise drove away at 07:50 for a 09:00 start at the courthouse. Louise was tired and in a foul mood.

Reuters: U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Monday backed a plan outlined by President Donald Trump aimed at combating the opioid crisis by vowing to seek the death penalty “wherever appropriate” against drug traffickers.

Reuters: Kroger's superstore chain Fred Meyer said it would exit its firearms business, two weeks after deciding to stop selling guns and ammunition to those under the age of 21.

BBC: Uber said it is suspending self-driving car tests in all North American cities after a fatal accident. A 49-year-old homeless woman, who was pushing a bike, was hit by a car and killed as she crossed the street at night in Tempe, Arizona. There was a human monitor in the Uber car.

David phoned Cross Jeep to tell that that Louise was on jury duty and that she would not be able to pick up her vehicle license tag until Saturday.

David polished Louise's silver tea service. His years in the Canadian Army stood him in good stead.

BBC: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have chosen an organic lemon and elderflower cake for their wedding in May. [Wow! This is earth-shattering]

Financial Post: Mark Zuckerberg's fortune dropped \$4.9 billion on paper Monday as investors weighed reports that a political advertising firm retained information on millions of Facebook Inc. users without their consent. Facebook said Friday that Cambridge Analytica, the advertising-data firm that helped Donald Trump win the U.S. presidency, received user data through an app developer on its social network, violating its policies. The company harvested private information from the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without permission, the New York Times reported.

Louise phoned just after noon to report that things were moving glacially and that another late night might result.

David had to throw a bit of Melba toast onto the back lawn to entice Maisie to go out. It was only 37F with a glacial wind. Maisie ate the toast but that was all before she was begging to be let back inside.

CBC: City crews have fixed more than 110,000 potholes on Toronto streets since the start of the year

and Mayor John Tory says he is pleased because the number sets a new record for repairs.

Louise checked in from the courthouse at 14:30 with the news that there was no hope of a reprieve. Louise is thoroughly fed up with lawyers and thinks that being forced to listen to them is cruel and unusual punishment that should be banned under the Geneva Convention.

David was back with Sherman marching his army of 62,000 Union Bluecoats straight through Georgia with no lines of communication, living off the land. Lincoln and Grant both had their doubts but gave Sherman his head. Confederate President Jefferson Davis, himself a West Point graduate, likened Sherman's thrust to Napoleon's invasion of Russia – declaring that like Napoleon he would have to fall back.

About 15:35, at 35F, it started to “snain” - tiny white frozen raindrops fell, melting as soon as they hit the ground. That snain later turned into a major storm of heavy wet snow.

Louise phoned about 16:30 to say that they had a break but would be going back into session.

A while after her 17:00 dinner Maisie whimpered to be let out. David obliged thinking that a bathroom beak was needed. No, Maisie wanted to go and lick the fresh snow. Probably a Cairn Terrier think that snow is just Scottish ice cream.

Louise got home about 18:50 and badly needed some jury juice to revive her flagging spirits. The Plaintiff portion of the trial was ended.

For supper we had Costco chicken stew with chicken broth added. Louise made a huge salad to complement that.

We did not get around to trying for a video until about 20:15 hrs but gave up at 20:20 because the satellite signal just froze due to the falling snow.

### **Wednesday March 21st 2018**

#### **Major Snow Storm**

We had set three different alarms to wake us up at 06:00 but we were out of bed by 05:45 knowing that it had snowed overnight. Outside we could see four or more inches of snow.

David was out at 06:30 shoveling snow off the front steps and the garage ramp. The snow was wet and heavy – tree branch breaker type. He took some photos before sunrise.

Weather: Toronto 25F to 41F cloud    Louisville 33F to 42F snow – big time

You will note of course that in Toronto, where it snows, there was no snow.

David, enervated by the snow shoveling, did the NYTX in one minute 49 seconds.

Louise decided to take the Jeep Wrangler downtown to the courthouse so David put it into 4 wheel

drive, using the 4H setting that allows speeds up to 55 mph. Louise, with some trepidation, drove off in new snow flurries at 07:30 hrs, hoping to get to the courthouse for the 09:00 start.

As Louise drove away, the Louisville PBS station was reading our lists of schools that were either closed or had a two hour delay to the start of classes. Louisville does not handle snow well – neither do Magnolia blossoms.

Louise phoned home at 08:40 to report she had arrived at the courthouse. The drive in her Jeep had gone well in 4 wheel drive right up until the parking lot. First, Louise could not remember where the window controls were so she had to open the door to get a parking ticket. Second, the turns on the ramps were very tight and Louise had to disengage 4 wheel drive to get enough turn radius.

BBC: Out of 33,594 gun deaths in the US in 2014, suicides accounted for 21,386 – almost 64%

About 09:45, with some snow still falling, David let Maisie out into the back yard so that she could eat Scottish ice cream. David took snow photos and republished the photo album at:

<http://www.ironides.net/ironsite/LVLSpring2018/>

Louise called in her noon lunch break. One juror did not make the 09:00 start time so there was about an hour of dead time.

David had wanted to make some popcorn for himself and Maisie, but was unable to find the kernels of corn. Louise told him the hidden location and asked if David knew how to make popcorn. David confidently said “Yes” as he had looked it up on Google.

Did you know that you cannot use avocado oil to create stove top popcorn? After cleaning up that mess, David then tried Canola oil with much the same bombed out result. Maisie, ever alert to the possibility of popcorn, was dismayed. “How could you mess up popcorn? She asked.

As a final attempt, David tried using the microwave oven. At least there was no baked-on oil deposit with commensurate stink. Maisie was grateful for the few puffs, but figured it tasted nothing like the real popcorn that Louise makes.

David finished off the grand strategy of Sherman's March from Atlanta to Savannah and then his pivot northwards through South and North Carolina. David wondered why this strategic concept had not been taught at the US Army or Canadian Staff Colleges. The strategy was quite simple – Grant held Lee by the nose in Virginia while Sherman drove north up behind Lee and stripped away resources and willpower – all the while punishing the rich land and slave owning Southern aristocrats who had sent untold numbers of poor Confederates into the firing line.

Louise phoned home at 15:40 with the encouraging news that today's court might end such that Louise could get home by 19:00 hrs.

David was incredibly surprised when he heard the garage door open at 17:15 hrs. The last witness had not shown up so the judge adjourned for the day. But, first we had to put the Jeep into 4 wheel drive to get it up the slippery glaciis leading into the garage.

When Louise heard from Maisie about David's popcorn disaster, Louise made a bowl of fresh popcorn. David watched as Louise did exactly the same thing as he had done – the second time. The outcome for Louise was bright puffy snacks instead of David's charred ruination. Maisie was quick to exploit David's guilt.

Louise cooked up her delicious shrimp, broccoli and rice dish – with a huge salad. From a fellow juror Louise learned of a Netflix series that was worth watching.

Heartland is a Canadian family drama television series which debuted on CBC on October 14, 2007.

The series is based on the “Heartland” book series by Lauren Brooke. Heartland follows sisters Amy and Lou Fleming, their grandfather Jack Bartlett, and Ty Borden (sent to Heartland on probation from Juvenile Detention), through the highs and lows of life at the ranch.

Heartland was shot in the Alberta foothills of the Rockies 68 kms south of Calgary in High River – birthplace of Charles Joseph "Joe" Clark - 16th Prime Minister of Canada. Joe Clark attempted to move the Canadian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 1979, but backed down after the resulting furor. Mr Trump probably did not know that.

David was stationed in Calgary for two years and earned his Private Pilot's license flying out of Calgary International Airport (altitude 3,556 feet ASL). So, much of the scenery of the foothills brought back fond summer memories. But, Calgary in winter (which seems to be about eight months out of the year) – forget it.

#### **Thursday March 22nd 2018**

We were up at 05:45 in time to hear a series of three alarms go off for 06:00 hrs. On weigh-in David's elimination of bread & jam since Sunday resulted in a two pound weight drop.

We had a candlelight breakfast of fried eggs – no toast & jam for David.

Weather: Toronto 28F to 39F cloud & sun    Louisville 27F to 46F sun

David thought he had done well with the NYTX at one minute and 57 seconds. But, Louise absolutely waxed him at 42 seconds.

Louise climbed into her 4 wheel Jeep tank and drove off at 07:15 hrs for a 09:00 start. While most of the snow had melted, it was below freezing so icy patches were a threat. Louise phoned at 08:30 to report her safe arrival.

Having now visited both Canada and the United States quite extensively, it would appear that one of the major differences is the “de minimis” (the level at which Customs agents turn a blind eye to collecting Customs duties). The American de minimis is \$800 US. Canada's de minimis is \$20 Cdn. The Americans have it on their NAFTA “wish list” as \$20 Cdn (\$16 US) effectively stops Canadians buying from US retailers if the price is more than \$20, thereby incurring Customs brokerage etc.

David started on a make-work project to fix a door on an antique piece. He used the 'Gorilla Glue' that he had often used when building model aircraft.

About 09:50 David went outside to put a letter in the letter box. As he raised the red flag to let the carrier know there was a letter to pick up, he noticed that he did not like the sound of the heat pump. On closer inspection he could see that the thin ventilating fins were a solid block of ice.

Indoors he switched off this heat pump which is used as an auxiliary heater/air conditioner for the upstairs of the house. As the sun angle changed the heat pump would enjoy solar radiation and the air temperature would hit the 40s in the afternoon – hopefully melting the block of ice.

When Louise phoned during her mid-morning break she said that icing up was totally normal. David went to the Web and found that “Heat pumps will naturally ice-up in the winter but will periodically go into a defrost cycle to de-ice the coils.” David left the upstairs system off just to see how much temperature differential would ensue.

Reuters: Beijing was bracing on Thursday for an announcement from U.S. President Donald Trump of tariffs of as much as \$60 billion on Chinese imports, raising fears that the two countries could be sliding towards a trade war. [With NAFTA still not settled, conventional wisdom is that one should not fight wars on two fronts] The markets world-wide were not amused.

Reuters: The main U.S. coal miners’ union is set to endorse two Democrats running for Congress in West Virginia, two sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday - a boost for Democrats trying to win over a constituency that voted heavily for Republican Donald Trump in 2016. [Donald Trump told coal miners he was going to be their champion going forward]

David was reading “The Soul of Battle” by Victor Davis Hanson and was reading about General George Patton. David had read a lot about Patton, the father of US Armor. While David spent three weeks at Fort Knox in June, 1974, we have yet to visit the Patton Museum in Fort Knox.

At 13:30 David was expecting a phone call from Louise during her lunch break. He got a surprise when Louise announced that she was in her tank on her way home. The judge had changed plans.

When she got home Louise ate her courthouse lunch while David & Maisie looked on with envy. Then Louise phoned her pottery teacher and asked if we could come over to Prospect to pick up Louise's latest firing. Confirmed. It was great for David to go for a ride into the countryside.

Louise picked up a major piece she had purchased, a pottery “canoe” that would be perfect for fruit or baguettes. Her other pieces came out well, it being the first batch of “thrown” clay that had worked for Louise. Outside there was a cold frame with rhubarb about a foot tall.

From there Louise drove the Jeep back to Costco to fill up the gas tank after all the “jury duty”. Inside Costco David spotted some great slacks with 29 inch inseams – he grabbed two pair. We bought other “essentials”.

When we got home David was disappointed to find that his slacks had such low rises that only a teenager could wear them – they had to be returned.

We had simple chicken soup and salad for supper. We then watched one episode of “Heartland” and then gave up. It is like Pablum – it does the job but it is very boring.

## Friday March 23rd 2018

### Last Day of Jury Duty

We were up at 05:15 – this jury duty has really messed up our sleep time. The good news is that we have now mastered alarm clocks – if you set one you will wake up before it goes off.

Weather: Toronto 27F to 38F sun Louisville 34F to 51F cloud then sun

Reuters: President Trump fired H.R. McMaster and installed John Bolton as National Security Adviser (NSA). [This being the third in 14 months, it is safe to say that there is no security in being the NSA. This administration is now about as hard over to the right as it could get.]

BBC: The US plans to impose tariffs on up to \$60bn in Chinese imports and limit the country's investment in the US in retaliation for years of alleged intellectual property theft.

CBC: In a clear vote of confidence, the DOW dropped over 700 points (2.9%) to cheer on Trump's first shots in his trade war with China.

BBC: After four years of development, there is now a robot dentist ready for user testing.

For the first time in three days, we walked Maisie before sunrise. There were several tree limbs down as a result of the heavy wet snow from a couple of days past. Louise drove off about 07:30 for a 09:00 court start.

David worked on the dining room cabinet door trying to do a masterful refinishing job.

With the upstairs heat pump off, it is 8F degrees cooler upstairs.

Louise telephoned at 11:50 to report that the Defense had summed up. The jury had also picked its lunch choices from a menu. Next came the summation by the Plaintiff. After that would come jury deliberation, it being a civil case, nine out of the twelve jurors would have to agree. Those not agreeing, would have to sign a dissent document.

David finished the Victor Davis Hanson book covering Sherman and Patton. He had no desire to read about the third pick, Epaminondas. In summary, in the winter of 370-369 the obscure Theban general Epaminondas marched his army of democratic yeomen and their allies about 180 miles south into Laconia, the legendary home of the Spartan army and a region inviolate from invasion for more than six hundred years. In a little over four months, the Theban-led invasion dismantled the system of Spartan apartheid — the enslavement of 200,000 Messenian serfs — and permanently weakened the military culture which had rested upon the principle that elite warriors should not work.

The culture of classical Greece was never again the same. Epaminondas killed more Spartan hoplites in a single day at the battle of Leuctra than had the entire Persian army that once invaded Greece over a century earlier, more than Athens had in twenty-seven years of the Peloponnesian War. He destroyed the Spartan state in one season — something imperial Athens could not do in nearly three decades of warring.

David was suffering from battle fatigue. He knew the symptoms as he had felt them many times when he spent four years instructing at the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto. You get to the point where you simply do not need any more death and destruction.

Louise phoned home about 15:00 to say that the jury was deliberating, but that it was going to be a long process.

David took photos of two pottery pieces from Prospect and posted the result in the photo album.

At 17:15 Louise phoned to report that the jury had reached an agreement. The next step was to present their findings to the judge. Louise did not expect to be home before 18:30 hrs.

David was filling the time by reading the third volume on Churchill.

Louise got home just as predicted and was not a happy camper. However, duty was done and we could now get back to normal. For some strange reason Louise decided we needed Martinis.

We had a noodles and chicken dish from Costco that was microwaved for nine minutes, It was quite good for zapfare. Louise made a big salad to round it out.

We talked for a long time to get Louise settled down and then went to bed about 20:45 – both really tired.

### **Saturday March 24th 2018**

We slept in just because we could.

Weather: Toronto 26F to 36F sun Louisville 36F to 38F rain

David did the big NYTX puzzle in three minutes and 37 seconds. It took Louise 1 second longer.

BBC: A French police officer who swapped himself for a hostage in a supermarket siege in Carcassonne, France on Friday has died, officials say. Lt-Col Arnaud Beltrame, 44, "fell as a hero" and showed "exceptional courage", French President Emmanuel Macron said.

CBC: Thousands of people are gathering in Washington for a protest that organizers claim will be a defining moment in the long-simmering national debate over gun-control legislation. Organizers of the 'March for Our Lives' rally are hoping to draw 500,000 protesters. That would match last year's women's march and make this one of the largest Washington protests since the Vietnam era. It would also bolster claims that the nation is ready to enact sweeping changes to its gun control laws. More than 800 marches are planned in cities across America and dozens of locations overseas to be held at roughly the same time.

After a cheese omelet breakfast Louise phoned the Jeep dealership to make sure her car license tag could be installed. Getting an affirmative, we drove the Jeep over to Cross Jeep in pouring rain. The temperature was 37F but occasional bands of snow pellets came down. On higher elevations they were getting quite a dump of heavy wet snow reminiscent of that which we experienced on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Louise was lucky to get a license tag that is very easy to remember.

On the way back Louise dropped into Clater Jewelry store to consult with the earring mechanic. We had another stop at the Dollar Tree to stock up on candles before the trade war empties out the store.

Sticking to David's diet, we had tomato soup for lunch. While Louise and Maisie had ice cream, David abstained.

After lunch David read the Churchill book about the Battle of Britain. As a school boy in Tonbridge, Kent he used to pass a brass plaque that said something like: "In the skies above The Battle of Britain was fought".

During the spare moments of jury duty, Louise decided to write the story of Hatsunesan and her son, which centers on the dropping of the A-Bomb on Hiroshima. She also began to reread John Hersey's short book called Hiroshima.

Now that the jury duty is over and when she has another night of restful sleep, Louise will catch up on a bit of painting and begin her packing for the drive to Toronto.

Dinner was some chicken spaghetti with a tomato sauce, rounded out with salad. We had some Three Buck Chuck Sauvignon Blanc to wash it down.

We tried to watch a Netflix offering called "Tulip Fever". As 17th-century Amsterdam is immersed in tulip mania, a struggling artist and a wealthy married woman fall in love when he's commissioned to paint her portrait. To pay for a new life together, they gamble on the tulip bulb market.

It was pouring rain and the satellite signal kept dropping out. What we saw was very encouraging as the lighting was like watching a series of paintings by Dutch Masters. After a while the signal just froze so we read a bit and then went to bed.

### **Sunday March 25th 2018**

David woke up at 03:30 and could not get back to sleep so he went upstairs to work on the desktop computer.

Weather: Toronto 22F to 35F sun    Louisville 37F to 49F partly cloudy

At 04:47 David got the NYTX in two minutes and 54 seconds. At 05:00 Louise dragged David back to bed. Louise did the NYTX in one minute 31 seconds at 08:22 (she cheated as she was wide awake)

Reuters: Pope Francis, starting Holy Week services leading to Easter, urged young people on Sunday to keep shouting and not allow the older generations to silence their voices or anesthetize their idealism.

Reuters: Chanting "never again," hundreds of thousands of young Americans and their supporters answered a call to action from survivors of last month's Florida high school massacre and rallied across the United States on Saturday to demand tighter gun laws.

Reuters: Voter registration activists fanned out among young Americans who marched for tighter gun laws on Saturday, signing up thousands of first-time voters who vowed to eject lawmakers who oppose gun controls. With mid-term Congressional elections eight months away, the activists flocked to some 800 marches across the country to enroll young voters likely to back Democratic and independent candidates who tend to favor tougher firearms laws.

CBC: Chanting "Vote them out!" and bearing signs reading "We Are the Change," "No More Silence" and "Keep NRA Money Out of Politics," the protesters packed Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House.

BBC: The first scheduled non-stop flight between Australia and the UK arrived has in London's Heathrow Airport. Qantas Flight QF9 completed its 14,498km (9,009-mile) journey from Perth in just over 17 hours using the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, which is twice as fuel-efficient as the Boeing 747. In 1947 it took four days and seven stops to fly from Australia to the UK.

Wikipedia: The Slave Trade Act 1807, abolished the slave trade in the British Empire, in particular the Atlantic slave trade. It encouraged British action to press other European states to abolish their slave trades, but did not abolish slavery itself. It was not until 26 years later that slavery itself was actually abolished in the British Empire in the Slavery Abolition Act 1833. [Note: The American Civil War started in 1861 – the issue was slavery]

After a late oatmeal breakfast we headed out in the Jeep for some shopping. First stop was the Dollar Tree to buy the candles we should have bought the day before. We continued on to Trader Joe's only to find it closed until 13:00 hrs – we got a shot of a tree in blossom. We doubled back to Kroger's where we both got our second Shingrix shot against shingles – David got shot more than Louise in that he had to pay cash. We did some grocery shopping and then headed back to Trader Joe's. There was quite a blustery wind, but it was looking more like Spring.

For lunch we had our favorite tomato soup. We added brie cheese spread on Melba Toast with Major Grey's chutney.

Louise loaded up the Scion with boxes bound for the charity “Nearly New”.

We had previously purchased a flat of Gala apples from Costco. They did not seem to be very crisp so Louise decided to turn them into apple pie. We used Louise's high-tech automatic peeling machine and then cored them quite precisely. Next step was to cut the apples into chunks. A frying pan was heated and sugar spread in it to melt. Once the sugar started to caramelize, the apple chunks were added and stirred around to coat them with the syrup. Louise could not help but add some cinnamon to the mixture.

While David stirred the bubbling mixture to let it reduce, Louise created a pie shell topping. When the oven got up to speed, the pastry topping was put onto the frying pan and the edges folded in. The whole shebang was put in the oven to bake for forty minutes.

For dinner Louise came up with Chicken Trattoria and salad for supper.

We watched The Young Victoria and Albert on Netflix.